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American names CIA agents in Italian newspaper

By ERIC RORICH
in Rome

AN American journalist writing in the new Left-wing non-Communist newspaper *La Repubblica* yesterday gave the names of seven men he alleged were Central Intelligence Agency officials operating in Italy.

Mr Steve Weissman, of Tampa, Florida, said he thought it was important to publish their names "because the more time they (the CIA agents) have to protect themselves the less time they will have to meddle in Italian affairs."

Mr Weissman, a former editor of the United States liberal Catholic magazine *Ramparts*, said he believed the full strength of the CIA staff in Rome exceeded 40 and that they operated from other jobs in the American Embassy, military units and international companies.

A United States Embassy spokesman declined to comment.

Mr Weissman said the new CIA station head in Rome was

an Embassy official who had arrived in Italy—in a car with a diplomatic plate and a Vienna number—in November after serving in Athens, Moscow and Paris.

This man, said Mr Weissman, had been at Harvard University with Richard Welsh, the CIA man assassinated last month in Athens, and with Dr Kissinger, Secretary of State.

American and Italian official annuals listed the new CIA chief and many other occupants of the Embassy building as "attachés" and "political officers," said Mr Weissman.

He also claimed that the CIA were housed in a new wing of the Embassy in the fashionable Via Veneto.

"Knowing the sloppiness with which the CIA created cover jobs for its men over the years, it has been possible to identify many of them as CIA simply by knowing how to read biographical data made available by

the State Department and obtaining confidential information from inside the Embassy," he added.

'CIA IN THIRD-COUNTRY' 'Going on for years'

OUR WASHINGTON STAFF writes: Mr Leo Ryan, a member of the House of Representatives "Oversight" committee which checks CIA functions, said yesterday that the Agency was conducting clandestine operations in a country other than Italy and Angola. He did not name it but added that two other secret operations were also under way.

"This has been going on some years," he said. "It is very substantive, and I question whether or not at some future date it will go against our interests." He implied he would have voted to stop the CIA's operations if he could.